



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/605,928	11/06/2003	Douglas A. Bulleit	030308/BL0105US2	2927
36192	7590	01/07/2009	EXAMINER	
AT&T Legal Department Attn: Patent Docketing Room 2A-207 One AT&T Way Bedminster, NJ 07921			SAINT CYR, JEAN D	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2425	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			01/07/2009	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/605,928

Applicant(s)

BULLEIT ET AL.

Examiner

JEAN D. SAINT CYR

Art Unit

2425

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 July 2008.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 November 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

DETAILED ACTION

Miscellaneous

In response to notice of appeal filed on 07/22/2008, the finality of the last office action is withdrawn and an office action on new ground of rejection follows.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-3, 5, 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bi et al, US Patent No. 20040030929.

Re claim 1, Bi et al disclose a content distribution system comprising: a content source (see fig.1, server computer and video data);

a plurality of consumer networks located at a plurality of consumer locations, each consumer network (see fig.1) including a controller (see fig.4, main controller) and a consumer storage device (see fig.4, local storage);

a distribution network coupling said content source to said controller of said consumer networks, said distribution network including network storage devices and network processors(see fig.1, element 101, computer network);

a grid computing platform including said controllers(see fig.1, computing platform), said network processors, said consumer storage devices and said network storage

devices, said grid computing platform providing storage of said content across network storage devices and consumer storage devices and distribution of said content to one or more of said consumer networks(see fig.1) controllers said network processors, said consumer storage devices and said network storage devices executing grid applications to provide distributed processing of content distribution tasks(see fig.4).

Re claim 2, Bi et al disclose said grid computing platform compresses content prior to said distribution of said content to one of said consumer networks(see fig.4, modem).

Re claim 3, Bi et al disclose wherein: said grid computing platform encodes content prior to said distribution of said content to one said consumer networks (see fig.4, modem).

Re claim 5, Bi et al disclose wherein: said distribution of said content includes distributing content from a first consumer network to a second consumer network (see fig.1).

Re claim 17, Bi et al disclose wherein: said distribution network includes at least one of DSL(The computing platform 100 uses a network interface or modem 117 to access server computers 102 on the Internet or other computer network 101, 0027), cable and wireless networks(see fig.1).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a

whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4, 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bi et al in view of Zhou et al, US No. 20020144279.

Re claim 4, Bi et al did not explicitly disclose wherein: one of said consumer networks specifies a quality of service, delivery of said content being billed in response to said quality of service.

However, Zhou et al disclose one of said consumer networks specifies a quality (premium" channels to be encrypted prior to transmission to subscribers., 0020; that means quality service) of service, delivery of said content being billed in response to said quality of service (quality of the programming, line 12, 0019; the customer pays to the primary provider a periodic subscription fee corresponding to the selected service level, 0020).

It would have been obvious for any person of ordinary skill in the art at that time the invention was made to combine the invention of Bi with the invention of Zhou for the purpose of allowing consumers to select quality of contents.

Re claim 18, Bi et al did explicitly disclose wherein: said content is associated with a content profile and said consumer network is associated with a consumer profile, said content being distributed to said consumer network in response to said content profile and said consumer profile.

However, Zhou et disclose said content is associated with a content profile and said consumer network is associated with a consumer profile, said content being distributed

to said consumer network in response to said content profile and said consumer profile (a user access code may be assigned specified access level that denies access to certain types of program, lines 1-16, 0031; as well as other subscriber and/or billing information used by broker 100, 0032; that means users get access to the contents according to their profile).

It would have been obvious for any person of ordinary skill in the art at that time the invention was made to combine the invention of Bi with the invention of Zhou for the benefit of allowing users to receive contents according to their viewing history.

Re claim 19, Bi et al disclose wherein: said consumer network includes a device for displaying said content, said content being distributed to said consumer network in response to said content profile, said consumer profile and said device profile(see fig.1, element 106, television).

Claims 6-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bi et al in view of Kenner et al, US No. 5956716.

Re claim 6, Bi et al did not explicitly disclose wherein: said distribution of said content includes delivering a first portion of said content from a first content source, delivering a second portion of said content from a second content source, and assembling said first portion and said second portion at a first consumer network.

However, Kenner et al teach said distribution of said content includes delivering a first portion of said content from a first content source, delivering a second portion of said content from a second content source, and assembling said first portion and said second portion at a first consumer network (see fig.4, the DSI can be loading segment concurrently from separate SRUs in preparation for download to the user terminal, col.32, lines 48-50; that means video content was collected from two different sources).

It would have been obvious for any person of ordinary skill in the art at that time the invention was made to implement said distribution of said content includes delivering a first portion of said content from a first content source, delivering a second portion of said content from a second content source, and assembling said first portion and said second portion at a first consumer network into the system of Bi, as taught by Kenner, for the purpose of limiting congestion of bandwidth..

Re claim 7, Bi et al did not disclose said first content source is said network storage device and said second content source is a second consumer network.

However, Kenner et al teach said first content source is said network storage device and said second content source is a second consumer network (see fig.1, local SRU and Remote SRU; that means the remote SRU is a network device and the local SRU is storage of the consumer network).

In view of the teaching of Kenner, it would have been obvious for any person of ordinary skill in the art at that time the invention was made to implement said first content source is said network storage device and said second content source is a second consumer network into the system of Bi for the purpose of limiting congestion of bandwidth.

Re claim 8, Bi et al did not explicitly teach wherein said first portion is video and said second portion is video.

However, Kenner et al disclose wherein said first portion is video and said second portion is video (segmented clips are stored as stored separately accessible records, col.6, lines 33-34; that means both segments of the clip are video).

In view of the teaching of Kenner, it would have been obvious for any person of ordinary skill in the art at that time the invention was made to implement wherein said

first portion is video and said second portion is video into the system of Bi. With such modification, users will have opportunity to combine two segments of video to get the full video.

Re claim 9, Bi et al did not explicitly teach said first portion is even video frames and said second portion is odd video frames.

However, Kenner et al disclose said first portion is even video frames and said second portion is odd video frames (content provider can tie additional information to frames of a clip, col.32, lines 51-53; including predefined codes associated with a particular frames, col.33, lines 1-2; that means the predefined code could be even code or odd code associated to video frames).

In view of the teaching of Kenner, it would have been obvious to implement even video frames and odd video frames into the system of Bi. With such extra option, it will become easier for users to establish the difference between the first portion and the second portion of a video clip.

Re claim 10, Bi et al did not explicitly teach said distribution of said content includes delivering a first portion of said content prior to viewing said content and streaming a second portion of said content in real time when said content is viewed.

However, Kenner et al disclose said distribution of said content includes delivering a first portion of said content prior to viewing said content and streaming a second portion of said content in real time when said content is viewed (it is preferable the communication interface between DSI and local SRU be at least 56 KBAUD to support the "real time" video, col.18, lines 4-7).

In view of the teaching of Kenner, it would have been obvious for any person of ordinary skill in the art at that time the invention was made to implement said distribution

of said content includes delivering a first portion of said content prior to viewing said content and streaming a second portion of said content in real time when said content is viewed into the system of Bi. Such modification will give opportunity to users to previously download the video part of clip and stream the audio part during the real schedule.

Re claim 11, Bi et al did not explicitly teach wherein said second portion of said content is audio.

However, Kenner et al disclose wherein said second portion of said content is audio (audio-only, col.35, line 3).

In view of the teaching of Kenner, it would have been obvious for any person of ordinary skill in the art at that time the invention was made to implement wherein said second portion of said content is audio into the system of Bi. With such modification, users will have the opportunity to separate the video component from the audio component.

Re claim 12, Bi et al did not explicitly teach said second portion of said content is a component of a video signal.

However, Kenner et al teach said second portion of said content is a component of a video signal (audio stream, col.32, line 11).

In view of the teaching of Kenner, it would have been obvious for any person in the art at that the invention was made to know that the audio part is composite of video signal.

Re claim 13, Bi et al did not explicitly disclose wherein said distribution of said content is performed in response to distribution network performance.

However, Kenner et al disclose wherein said distribution of said content is performed in response to distribution network performance (optimize performance, col.30, line 2).

In view of the teaching of Kenner, it would have been obvious for any person of ordinary skill in the art at that time the invention was made to implement wherein said distribution of said content is performed in response to distribution network performance into the system of Bi. With such modification, users will have the opportunity to get access to data faster and congestion in the bandwidth will reduce too.

Re claim 14, Bi et al did not explicitly teach wherein said distribution network performance is determined based on bandwidth to one of said consumer networks.

However, Kenner et al teach wherein said distribution network performance is determined based on bandwidth to one of said consumer networks (to reduce bandwidth need, col.25, lines 41-48).

In view of the teaching of Kenner, it would have been obvious for any person of ordinary skill in the art at that time the invention was made to implement wherein said distribution network performance is determined based on bandwidth to one of said consumer networks into the system of Bi. With such modification, Users will have the opportunity to have quick access to data in the system whenever there is no congestion in the bandwidth.

Re claim 15, Bi et al did not explicitly teach wherein content is delivered prior to viewing or for real time viewing in response to said bandwidth to one of said consumer networks.

However, Kenner et al disclose wherein content is delivered prior to viewing or for real time viewing in response to said bandwidth to one of said consumer networks (real time video, col.18, lines 6-7).

In view of the teaching of Kenner, it would have obvious for any person of ordinary skill at that time the invention was made to implement wherein content is delivered prior to viewing or for real time viewing in response to said bandwidth to one of said consumer networks into the system of Bi. With such modification, users will have the opportunity to have content delivered prior to viewing or for real time according to the state of the bandwidth of their system.

Re claim 16, Bi et al did not explicitly teach the number of active content delivery sessions to one of said consumer networks is determined based on said bandwidth.

However, Kenner et al disclose the number of active content delivery sessions to one of said consumer networks is determined based on said bandwidth (to reduce bandwidth need, multiple requests for the same video can be queued by DSI for short period of time, col.25, lines 41-43).

In view of the teaching of the teaching of Kenner, it would have been obvious for any person of ordinary skill in the art at that time the invention was made to implement the number of active content delivery sessions to one of said consumer networks is determined based on said bandwidth into the system of Bi. With such modification, users will have the opportunity to know that they will be able to receive more contents from the system whenever there is less congestion in the bandwidth.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jean Duclos Saintcyr whose phone number is 571-270-

3224. The examiner can normally reach on M-F 7:30-5:00 PM EST. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are not successful, his supervisor, Brian Pendleton, can be reached on 571-272-7527. The fax number for the organization where the application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, dial 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Jean Duclos Saintcyr
/Hunter B. Lonsberry/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2421